



**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5**

**Community Involvement Plan**

Himco Dump Superfund Site  
*Elkhart County, Indiana*

**January 2008**



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## Introduction

This community involvement plan for the Himco Dump Superfund site in Elkhart County, Indiana, provides background information on the site, describes activities that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will perform to keep the public and local officials informed about progress at the site, and encourages community involvement during cleanup of the site. It also discusses the concerns of local residents and officials regarding the site and ways for EPA to address those concerns. The information herein is based primarily on discussions with residents, business owners, and local officials that occurred December 6-7, 2007.

## Site Description

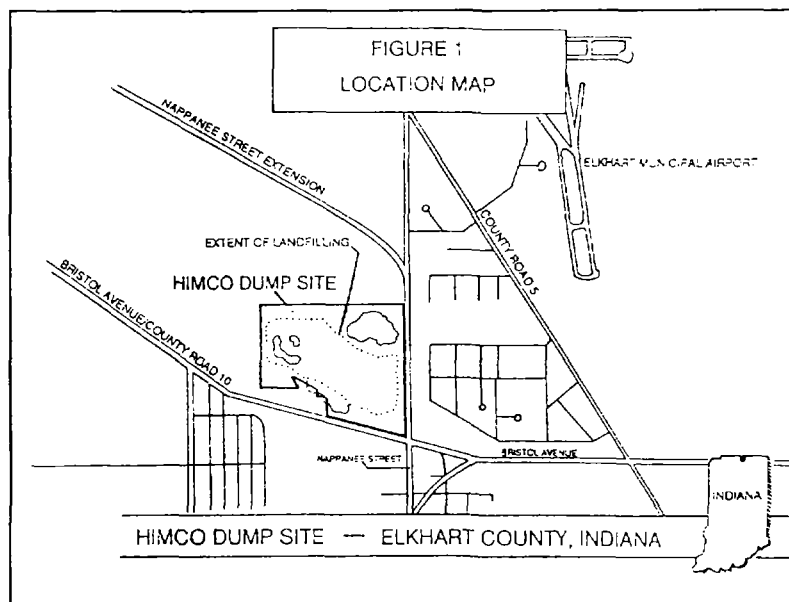
### Location and Site Features

The Himco Dump site is a closed landfill covering 60 acres at County Road 10 (Bristol Street) and the Nappanee Street extension in Cleveland Township, partially within the corporate limits of the city of Elkhart and partially within the unincorporated part of Elkhart County. The site is bounded on the north by a tree line and a gravel-pit pond, on the west by a tree line and fish pond, on the south by County Road 10 and private residences, and on the east by the Nappanee Street extension. The western half of the site has been used to grow soybeans; the eastern half is covered by grass and trees. There is a sand access road into the site near the intersection of County Road 10 and Nappanee Street.

There are three surface water bodies on the site: the gravel-pit pond in the northeast corner of the site, and two ponds located in the southwest corner of the site. Land use within a 1-mile radius of the site is residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural. Two of the city's water supply well fields are within 2 miles of the site.

### Site Background

Himco Waste Away Service operated the Himco Dump from 1960 until it closed in September 1976. The dump site was once a marsh and grassland. The landfill was built without a liner or a leachate or gas recovery system and waste was dumped at ground level throughout the site. In the eastern quarter where trench filling was performed, five trenches 10 to 15 feet deep, 10 feet wide, and 30 feet long were excavated in this area where paper refuse reportedly was dumped in these trenches and burned. Two-thirds of the waste in the landfill is calcium sulfate from Miles Laboratories (now Bayer Healthcare, LLC). As many as 360 tons per day were dumped over an unknown period. The dump also accepted



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household and commercial refuse, construction and demolition debris, and industrial and medical waste.

The dump lies above a continuous part of the shallow aquifer system, the sole source of drinking water for the community. A conservative estimate is that wells within 3 miles of the site serving 20,000 people may be affected. Residents living roughly 200 feet downgradient of the site complained of discoloration and foaming in their water, thought to be caused by migration of landfill leachate. In 1971, the Indiana State Board of Health responded to complaints and identified the site as an open dump. Deeper private wells were installed, but sampling results from those wells detected very high levels of sodium.

In early 1974, residents living directly south of the Himco Dump complained to the ISBH about color, taste, and odor problems of drinking water from their shallow wells. As a result of growing complaints, the State Health Commissioner advised the site owner to drill deep wells to replace six contaminated shallow residential wells immediately south of the landfill along County Road 10. Analyses of the shallow wells showed high levels of iron and manganese. New wells were installed at depths ranging from 152 to 172 feet below ground.

The ISBH eventually ordered the owners of the Himco Dump to close the landfill by February 1975. The state allowed a delay in the closure of the Himco Dump until Himes could get the proper permits for a new landfill located on the southeast side of Elkhart. In 1976, Miles Laboratories provided the ISBH with a list of industrial wastes disposed of at the Himco Dump. The list includes calcium sulfate sludge and sodium and potassium bromide compounds. Other PRPs indicated that wastes disposed of at Himco Dump may include solvents, ink, water-based adhesives, degreaser sludge, and waste oil. When the dump was closed, a final cover consisting of calcium sulfate sludge overlain by about 1 foot of sand was placed over the deposited wastes. The area bordering the southern perimeter of the landfill consists of construction rubble.

During an inspection in 1984, EPA observed leachate seeps and landfill gas (sulfur) odors. Sampling results indicated that volatile organic compounds, known as VOCs, semi-VOCs, and metals (selenium, arsenic, copper, lead, mercury, zinc, manganese, and others) were in the ground water at the site. Additional ground-water samples collected in 1990, 1991, and 1995 detected low-levels of the same ground-water contaminants outside the landfill boundaries.

In September 1989, EPA undertook a study to determine the type and extent of contamination at the site and identify cleanup options. In 1990, an alternate water supply was extended to residences with private wells south of the landfill.

In 1992, a site assessment detected toluene, xylene, 2-hexanone, 4-methyl-2-pentanone, and ethylbenzene at concentrations ranging from 480,000 ppm for toluene to 6,400 ppm for ethylbenzene. The contaminants were leaking from buried 55-gallon drums. An emergency removal action was initiated following the detection of 50 percent toluene and other VOC contaminants in a leachate sample. Himco Waste-Away Services removed 71 drums and 50 cubic yards of contaminated soil under a legal agreement called a Consent Order.

In 1993, EPA decided on a cleanup plan for the Himco site in a Record of Decision document signed on September 23. The plan included building an impermeable landfill cap to prevent rain and snowmelt from seeping through the waste and polluting underground-water

supplies. Legal controls were placed on the property to restrict land and ground-water use. A gas collection and treatment system was installed to limit and treat vapor releases from the landfill, and a ground-water monitoring system was built to measure the effectiveness of the cleanup actions and evaluate the need for future treatment.

In 1995, a pre-design investigation was conducted to analyze the potential adverse health effects from exposure to the soils, shallow ground water, and soil vapor potentially migrating from the landfill toward the residents south of the landfill in the construction debris area. In November 1998, (Phase I) samples of soil, ground water, and soil gas were collected to further characterize the CDA and to determine if any gases were migrating from the landfill. The investigation showed that benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, xylene, vinyl chloride, total chlorinated ethenes, and total chlorinated ethanes were all migrating from the landfill. The concentration of the gases was very high in an area southeast of the landfill; however, the concentration of the migrating gases decreased to very low levels as the gases moved south toward the residents.

The Phase I gas sampling demonstrated that the gases migrating from the landfill to the northeast and southeast. Phase II soil gas sampling results showed that the same compounds detected during the Phase I soil gas sampling event were detected at high concentrations near the landfill decreasing to very low levels as it moved towards residences. While access to the properties was being obtained to collect the soil gas samples, it was discovered that residents were using private wells as their sole source of drinking water and that their well water had never been tested. In March and April 2000, EPA collected two rounds of ground-water samples from the residences closest to the landfill. The results showed low levels of benzene, chloroform, 1,2-dichloroethane, vinyl chloride, arsenic, and 1,1-dichloroethane, and high levels of sodium and calcium. The compound 1,2-dichloropropane exceeded its maximum contamination level for drinking water. Bottled water was offered to the residences where contaminants were detected and also to nearby residents whose water was not tested. All residences that were tested were using bottled water and water softeners on their own volition because of the high levels of naturally occurring iron in that area.

In April 2000 EPA sampled all the landfill monitoring wells to establish a baseline for future monitoring. A limited geo-probe sampling investigation was conducted on the east side of the landfill to delineate the extent of contamination migrating from the landfill towards southeast.

All recent data (1995-2000) was collected and compiled into a final report entitled *Himco Dump Supplemental Site Investigations/Site Characterization Report*, December 2002. Based upon this report, EPA, in consultation with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, determined that the site risk had changed significantly and the 1993 cleanup decision needed to be modified.

On April 11, 2003, EPA released an amendment to the 1993 ROD that proposed a modified cleanup plan for public comment. The plan was to address the risk associated with both the CDA adjacent to the landfill and the residents living east of the landfill. Both areas were not fully addressed in the 1993 cleanup decision. EPA also proposed to modify the 1993 landfill composite cap design. After public comment on the proposed modified cleanup plan was received, EPA decided on a final modified cleanup plan as follows:

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- Enhance the landfill cover in areas instead of constructing a new cover over the entire landfill as proposed by the 1993 cleanup plan;
  - Connect 39 selected residents to municipal water supply;
  - Develop a contingency plan to connect additional residents;
  - Perform long-term ground-water monitoring;
  - Mitigate landfill gas migration. A passive system is acceptable if it protects human health and the environment, but if not, an active system will be required;
  - Develop and implement a sentinel ground-water program to monitor residents not connected to municipal water supply, with a contingency to connect other residents as necessary;
  - Support reuse and redevelopment as appropriate; and
  - Perform soil excavation in the CDA or provide a soil cover and make the CDA a part of the landfill.

In summer 2007, EPA completed plans to connect 38 homes located on the east side of the Himco Dump site to Elkhart's municipal water system. The private wells of seven or eight homes on the south side of the dump already connected to the system will be removed. Cleanup work (included in the modified cleanup plan described above) will include the removal of construction debris in the dump and improvements to the cap covering the Himco property to prepare it for future re-use. In addition to improvements to the landfill cap, monitoring wells will be installed to ensure that the ground water migrating from beneath the dump site to residential areas is not polluted. Monitoring wells will be installed in an area where residents are not connected to city water as a precaution to protect their drinking water. A landfill gas capture system with monitoring equipment will be placed in the area to ensure landfill vapors do not drift to residential properties. Work on these projects can begin now that an agreement with the PRPs is completed.

### **Environmental Response Actions**

In 1979, the United States Geological Survey began a hydrogeological study of northwestern Elkhart County. The purpose of the study was to define the hydrogeology in the region and to conduct a chemical evaluation of the ground water. The general ground-water flow patterns and stream-aquifer connections were also defined. The USGS report determined the horizontal and vertical extent of a potential leachate plume from the Himco Dump.

In 1984, EPA conducted a site inspection at the Himco Dump as part of the HRS scoring process. Laboratory analyses of wells sampled downstream of the site showed that the ground water was affected by heavy metals and semi-volatile and volatile organic compounds. Leachate streams were also observed during the site inspection.

At the end of May 1989, after 4 months of formal negotiations with the PRPs, EPA ended negotiations when informed that a good faith offer to perform the RI/FS would not be submitted by any PRP. In September 1989, EPA authorized funds to initiate an RI/FS at the site.

In June 1988, the Himco Dump was proposed for the NPL, and in February 1990 was designated a final NPL site.

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## Contaminants

Ground water data, collected from 1978 to 2000, showed that the Himco Dump Site contributed to the degradation of ground-water quality. Sampling results showed a consistent pattern of low parts per billion (a part per billion is a very tiny unit of measure that can be compared to one second in 32 years) of VOCs and metal contamination at the site.

Soil samples were collected from a privately owned residential area called the Construction Debris Area. Sample results indicated the presence of PAHs, VOCs, and the following metals: aluminum, antimony, arsenic, copper, manganese, mercury, lead, and nickel, which may have been associated with construction dumping activities at the site.

Various organic volatiles, such as BTEX, chlorinated ethenes, and chlorinated ethanes, were detected in soil gas samples collected along the southern and eastern perimeter of the landfill. Elevated concentrations of all constituents were detected on the landfill with a decreasing concentration trend moving away from the landfill perimeter. The highest concentrations were measured in the southeast corner of the site.

The Himco Dump Superfund site is characterized as a site with "Current Human Exposures Not Under Control" because of the direct contact exposure (via showering and bathing) to arsenic and manganese in water from four private residential ground-water wells located east of the dump. This water is slightly above the acceptable risk range for direct contact exposure. These residents have been provided bottled water for drinking, alleviating the risk from ingestion of water from the contaminated ground water wells. The planned activity to address this pathway is to connect the residents to the local municipal water supply, and to close/abandon the private drinking water wells. This and other steps in reducing the risk posed by the site are described in the December 2004 ROD Amendment. A legal agreement for implementing the cleanup plan in the December 2004 ROD Amendment was lodged on September 7, 2007 and in effect by the end of 2007.

## Liability

This site is being addressed through federal Superfund program actions due to its inclusion on the National Priorities List. The NPL is a published list of hazardous waste sites in the country that are eligible for extensive, long-term cleanup actions under the Superfund program. EPA has developed an assessment and scoring system called the Hazard Ranking System to evaluate the dangers posed by hazardous waste sites. Sites that score high enough on the HRS are eligible for the NPL. Sites are scored according to the danger they may pose to public health or the environment.

It is anticipated that the potentially responsible parties (the parties that EPA has determined may be legally responsible for the site's contamination) will conduct additional work under a federal enforcement action. Although there are approximately 39 PRPs (including 37 generators representing a broad range of manufacturing firms that had sent wastes to the site), Himco Waste Away, Inc. (a transporter and former operator of the site) and Miles Laboratories (a generator and one of the current owners of the site) are the parties primarily responsible for the cleanup at the site.

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## Community background

Elkhart was founded in 1836 by Dr. Havilah Beardsley, incorporated as a town in 1854, and became a city in 1875. Today, five main industries can be found in Elkhart that includes musical instrument production, pharmaceutical production, electronic component manufacturing, manufactured housing, recreational vehicle and boat manufacturing, and related supporting businesses. Miles Medical Co., which produced products like Alka-Seltzer and One-A-Day vitamins, was based here since 1884 and eventually consolidated with Bayer, Inc. by 1995. The county has one of the largest freight yards in the world and is the number one producer of dairy in the state of Indiana. There are 1,516 farms<sup>1</sup> in the county, most of which are independently owned.

As of the 2000 census, the City of Elkhart had a population of approximately 51,874, and the county is home to 182,791 residents.

Community	Median Household Income (1999)	Median Home Value (2000)	Population (2000)	Percent of Persons Below Poverty Level
City of Elkhart	\$34,863	\$78,200	51,874	13.6
Elkhart County	\$44,478	\$98,100	182,791	7.4
State of Indiana	\$41,567	\$94,300	6,080,485	12.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007

## Past Community Concerns and Involvement

Past citizen involvement related to the Himco site has been relatively high, especially for the residents of six homes just south of the site. In 1974, three of the residents filed a legal suit against some of the PRPs alleging that the dump was polluting their wells, endangering their health, and lowering their property values. An out-of-court settlement was reached.

There are two other Superfund sites in Elkhart County: the Main Street Well Field and Conrail Railyard. According to one resident, the county is also home to more than 40 other waste sites. Local officials and citizens have been very active in issues regarding ground-water quality. Two citizen groups were formed in reaction to landfill issues. POWER (People Organized for Water-purity and Environmental Responsibility) was organized in 1989 and had about 125 members. CLEAN, Inc., (Citizens' League for Environmental Action Now) was organized in 1988 and had about 50 members. CLEAN is no longer an active organization in the Elkhart area and the continued existence of POWER could not be verified at this time.

In terms of past press coverage, events at Himco have attracted less attention than the other two Superfund sites. Much of the citizen involvement for the Himco site has been generated by the cluster of residents directly south of the site.

Governmental units involved over the years with the Himco site include EPA, IDEM, ISBH, County of Elkhart, City of Elkhart, and the USGS.

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<sup>1</sup> SOURCE: USDA, NASS, 2002 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE



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### **Community Concerns c. 1990**

In 1990, residents and local officials expressed the following concerns during community interviews about the Himco Dump site:

- **Impacts on private residential wells**—Residents living directly south of the dump site along County Road 10 are concerned about the effects of contaminants from the Himco site on their private wells, have had their wells tested in the past, and most have been drinking purchased bottled water for the past 15 years. Most residents use the well water only for laundry, bathing, and doing dishes.
- **Health effects from site contamination**—Residents living near the site complained of health problems—illnesses they believe are the direct results of the Himco site.
- **Perceived effects of site contamination**—Nearby residents have complained of several odd occurrences they believe are the result of site contaminants. They reported foaming, discolored water from their wells, heavy deposits on internal toilet parts, bad odors from the dump, the need to replace washing machines every 2 or 3 years, and discoloration of white clothes washed with well water.
- **Insufficient site security**—Residents said that children frequently play on the grounds of the dump and take items found on the dump to school for play and distribution. People reportedly fish in the onsite pond.
- **Impact of the site on property values**—Most residents interviewed expressed concern about an inability to sell their property or get full value because of their proximity to the site and because water quality is poor.
- **General concern about the environment and standard of living**—According to residents and officials, three Superfund sites and more than 40 other waste sites are in Elkhart County. Ground-water quality has been a concern of the city government for several years. Many residents worry about the effect the waste sites will have on the environment and standard of living.
- **Lack of response/concern from government officials**—Residents expressed frustration over perceived lack of action taken by county government and state officials. Residents complained that the site has been a problem for nearly two decades, but no direct actions have been taken.
- **Responsibility of PRPs**—Residents expressed concern regarding the accountability of PRPs for the Himco Dump. The former operator runs other waste facilities under different names. Residents worry that they are living near future Superfund sites.
- **Effects of the dump site on wildlife**—According to local residents, the Himco Dump was formerly a wetlands area teeming with deer, muskrat, bird, fish, and mink. Most of the wildlife vanished with the presence of the open dump. Residents have noticed a return of some wildlife activity and are concerned about the effects contamination may have on emerging animal life.

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## Property Reuse

The Superfund Redevelopment Initiative is a coordinated national effort to facilitate the return of the country's most hazardous waste sites to productive use by selecting cleanup remedies that are consistent with the anticipated future use of the sites. The SRI makes it possible for communities to have a strong voice in local land use decisions that affect them, helps to ensure the effectiveness of cleanups, generates jobs, and increases property value. Working with communities to determine their preferred reuse of these properties is an integral part of the cleanup process and enables EPA to select the most appropriate cleanup remedies to ensure protection of people and the environment.

The City of Elkhart received \$40,000 from the SRI to develop a reuse plan for EPA to identify the most likely future uses of the Himco Dump site. From 2002 to 2004, the City of Elkhart engaged in a reuse planning process facilitated by a consultant team to create a Land Use Committee<sup>2</sup> and gain community input. In November 2004, A project report entitled *Planning for the Future: A Reuse Planning Report for the Himco Dump Superfund Site* was released that summarized the reuse planning process, presented the site reuse strategy, and highlighted the next steps. The reuse plan for the site was developed based on the Committee's reuse guidelines as well as land use and market conditions in the City of Elkhart. The report highlighted key reuse considerations that could potentially be implemented at Himco Dump and complement the 2004 cleanup action.

Five scenarios were determined suitable for Himco Dump redevelopment:

- Active Recreation Areas (sports fields, biking and walking paths, cross country course);
- Passive Recreation and Leisure Areas (picnic grounds, Camp Park, fishing pond, bird sanctuary with wildlife viewing stations, boat launch);
- Ecological Zones (prairie, or open fields, wooded fields, pocket woodlands, Quarry Lake, wetlands);
- Environmental Education (field study garden, field test and learn stations with indoor classrooms); or
- Himco Recreational Vehicle Park.

## Current community issues and concerns

EPA's most recent community involvement activities began November 13, 2007, at a Himco Trust Site meeting held to discuss water hookups for 38 homes near the site. After the meeting, several people were interviewed in anticipation of completion of the CIP. More community interviews were held December 6-7, 2007 to assess how much the community knows about the site, to learn residents' and officials' concerns about the site, and to determine the kind of information desired and the best way to provide that information.

About 27 individuals were interviewed. Most of the residents interviewed live near the

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<sup>2</sup> The reuse committee consists of the following members. Local Bank Representative. Four Community Residents. Representative from Elkhart County Offices. Representative for the Elkhart Environmental Center. Teacher. Three Potentially Responsible Parties Representatives. Four Representatives from the City of Elkhart. Member from the Cleveland Township Neighborhood Association. MACOG Representative. Elkhart Municipal Airport Representative. Bayer Polymers LLC Representative. Elkhart City Council. Consultants from the following. City of Elkhart. Wildlife Habitat Council, and EPA National Risk Management Research Laboratory. Resource Members EPA Project Manager. EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, Region 5 EPA Reuse Coordinator and IDEM Project Coordinator.

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Himco Dump site. Residents with whom EPA spoke demonstrated a strong awareness of and interest in the site. Many were long-time residents and neighbors of the site and well aware of the site's history and EPA's involvement with the site. Residents are primarily concerned about their drinking water and property values, understand the issues, and want accurate and timely information. A summary of the answers received during the community interviews is listed below.

**Are you aware of contamination at the Himco Dump site, a closed landfill covering about 60 acres in Elkhart at County Road 10 and Nappanee Street Extension?**

Most people knew that there was contamination at the Himco Dump site. One resident remembered the smell from years ago as a bad, nasty smell especially on humid days, and a different resident said that they used to fish there years ago. Only two residents were not aware of the contamination.

**If so, how long have you been aware of the site?**

A couple of officials stated that they have known about the site for a long time, one stated for about 17 years and the other said since the 1970s or 1980s. One official had known about the site since 2000. One person said that they have been aware of the site since it became a dump, and another person said they have known about the site since 2004 when it appeared on the news.

One resident said that she had been aware of the site since the site became a Superfund site, but suspected a problem last year when people started getting water hookups. Another person said he had only known about the site for a few months, while several other residents have known about the site since the 1970s.

**Are you interested in receiving more information about the Himco Dump site? If yes, what's the best way to provide that information to you (e-mail, regular mail)?**

Everyone that was interviewed was interested in receiving more information about the site. The best way to contact most residents was through regular mail, but one resident did not have a preference. Only one official preferred to be contacted by regular mail, while all the other officials either had no preference or preferred e-mail.

**Do you feel the site has received adequate coverage by the local/regional media?**

The mayor said that there was definitely enough coverage in the media about the site. He stated that he was even interviewed recently for Channel 22, CBS. Another official agreed with the mayor. Someone else said it was too hard to judge. Most of the officials interviewed did not think there was enough coverage in the media. Most residents also agreed that there was not enough coverage. Only one resident said that there was enough coverage by the media. Regarding the lack of media attention, someone suggested that the police force did not even know about the site. Most agreed the site had not been on the news lately although when it first "started," it was on the news frequently.

Someone was concerned that too much negative publicity would affect their ability to sell their property.

**What type of media (e.g., newspaper, internet, radio) do you rely on for information? What stations and papers do you prefer?**

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Almost everyone interviewed gets their news from the *Elkhart Truth* newspaper. A couple of other newspapers that were mentioned include the *South Bend Tribune* and the *Goshen News*.

Radio stations that people listen to for information include FM 104.7, 1340 AM, WTRC AM, WFRN AM, U93-92.9, and WZOW (102.3 and 97.7).

For those that get their information from television, the majority watch the stations WSBT-CBS Channel 22 and WNDU-NBC Channel 16. People also get their news from WSJV-Fox Channel 28.

**How frequently do you think public meetings about the site might be held? Would you attend? Where would be the best place to hold a meeting?**

Most of those interviewed would attend a meeting about the site if one were held. According to some officials, meetings should be held when EPA has news of importance to share, but others did not believe there is a need for regular public meetings. Several residents and some officials feel that an educational meeting to share details about the site should be held. Some felt that it would be helpful if there were officials from EPA available and perhaps even a geologist to explain things and that more communication is needed.

Some residents felt a meeting should be held immediately, before the consent decrees for the water hookups needed to be signed. Someone suggested that quarterly or biannual meetings would be good.

One official suggested that fewer meetings would mean fewer alarm bells and that the only people that care about the site are those that live adjacent to it.

Recommended locations for a meeting included various schools, municipal buildings, and churches in the area. Woodland Elementary School and Elkhart Memorial High School were suggested the most often, but North Side Middle School, Elkhart City Hall or a county building, the Chamber of Commerce, Matterhorn Convention Center, Greencroft Senior Center, the Maples at Waterford Crossing, Few Creation Fellowship Church, Maple City Chapel, Highland Baptist Church, and the Trinity Lutheran Church were other suggestions.

**Are there any other people or groups you think we should talk to about the Himco Dump site (e.g., local environmental groups)?**

Those interviewed thought several different groups should be contacted to talk about the Himco Dump site. A few people suggested that EPA contact the following organizations: EnviroCorp, Clean, although this organization is no longer active in Elkhart, Elkhart County Parks and Recreation, City of Elkhart Office of Parks & Cultural Resources - Parks & Recreation, St. Joseph River Basin Commission, City Water Department, and the Elkhart County Health and Environmental Health Departments.

**When possible, site information is posted on EPA's website. Have you used the EPA Region 5 web site to locate information about the site or for other information?**

Most residents and officials interviewed have not used the EPA Region 5 web site, but most officials have used the general EPA web site in the past. One used it for grant applications for brownfields redevelopment and to access the CERCLIS database. Only one official was unaware of the web site.

Several residents said they would probably check out EPA's Region 5 web site now that they were aware of it, and another person asked for more information about it.

**How interested are you in environmental issues in general?**

The majority of the officials interviewed are generally interested in environmental issues. One person was an environmental planner for 5 years and interested in water quality issues. One person is interested in keeping the environment healthy for children and relatives. One person said that they tried to prevent a car crusher business from entering the area and she tries to get involved with things that would affect ground water.

Residents that are interested in environmental issues are interested in recycling, water-related issues, global warming, and air quality issues.

**Have you had contact with government officials about the site? Do you feel that local, state, and/or federal officials (including EPA) have been responsive to your concerns?**

Several local officials said that they had had contact with government officials concerning the site. One said that historically when you asked questions, you could get answers.

Some residents had had contact with government officials, including the Elkhart County Health Department about the site, but most had not.

One resident had called a few times and did not feel that the response they received, "we're working on it," was completely responsive. This person reported being "tired of carrying water."

One person said that government officials have been dragging their feet for too many years and that the problem should have been resolved a long time ago.

**What are your concerns about the contamination at this site? (If yes to #1)**

One person thought that the matter of the cleanup had been settled and was surprised it was not finished yet.

Some people wanted to know what was dumped at the site, how long the site was used for a dump, and what is contaminated.

One person said they wanted to know the long-term effects of the contamination and to feel confident that the experts had done what needs to be done to keep things clean.

Someone said they want to know what the remedy is and who is responsible.

Someone asked when the work will start on the site and why did they let people dump there in the first place.

Property owners were concerned about the site's impacts on being able to sell their homes and their property values.

Some were concerned with the impacts of the site on their well water and others felt the site had the potential to impact city water as well. Someone asked how many people's water the site would affect. One resident was generally concerned about the water, getting well water, and whether the water is safe. One person was concerned about how the contamination can really be cleaned up in the water moving south. One resident said that the water makes

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them itch if they bathe or shower in it. Someone said the site has been in existence for years and that state and federal funds should be used for testing their water. One person does not believe there are currently exposure risks except the surface water exposure at the site itself. Concern was expressed about potable water supplies, and someone asked if ground water is contaminated. Someone asked which way the ground water is flowing and if the contamination is stationary. They wondered if once it is clean, if it can come back.

Someone said that once EPA got involved, everyone knew that would mean city water, and the city would deal with it even though it was a problem in the county.

Those residents that were being encouraged to hook up to city water were upset that they would now have to pay for water for the rest of their lives when they were using their own well water prior to the contamination problem and did not have a water bill. Several were concerned about the city of Elkhart's "compact agreement" which would mean they would have to pay a fee on top of their water bill that could be 75 percent of what their property taxes would be if they lived in the city. EPA verified that this fee would not be applicable because the Compact Fee in Elkhart is being eliminated. Some think that current residents on wells who have to hook up to city water should be grandfathered in and have no water costs because the contamination was not their fault. They believe the trust or PRPs should pay their water bills, and feel that what Bayer (a PRP) proposed would not clean up the problem. Some believe the contamination is laying in the water table.

Because a stipulation of the consent decree (for hooking up to city water) was that their wells would be capped, someone asked if the wells would be inspected to verify they are capped. This person would like to be able to use well water to water the yard.

Some people had concerns about the funding of the trust that is intended to pay for the cleanup.

Others wondered what type of redevelopment would be possible for the site.

Residents expressed health concerns about the site. They asked what the members of the community have been exposed to and what health problems related to the site have been identified. They wanted to know what the long range effects are and how severe the impacts are for people living in the area. Someone pointed out that there is a lot of cancer in the neighborhood—her husband died of cancer, people in the neighborhood have cancer, and her dog has cancer.

Several people expressed concern that the people being affected do not have enough information and have not been educated about the site and its impacts. They were very concerned about having to sign access agreements with no information.

Someone said that once the fence is up around the site, it should be kept fixed.

Other questions that were asked include the following:

- What are the long term impacts?
- Will more of the neighborhood be impacted later?
- Will monitoring be done?
- Is it leaching (leaking away from the original site)?
- Is it flaring the gas?

- When did EPA get involved?

**What risks do you think the site, in its current state, poses to you or your children?**

One official thinks that the alarm over the site is a bit overblown.

Most people interviewed felt that the greatest risks from the site were from fishing on the site and contaminated water. It was suggested that bioassays (studies) on fish should be done because there is a concern with people eating the fish they catch. Someone asked what the people who are recreationally fishing on the site are being exposed to and what can be done about the fishing.

Someone said they still see a risk of the contamination getting into the water as long as contamination remains on the site.

One person asked how far reaching the problems can go and that person is concerned about ground water, but confident now that it is being controlled and monitored by EPA.

Several residents said that their water had never been tested. One person said he had personally pushed waste into the pond (as part of his job) and that he knows that this impacted the water table. He believes the city water is impacted too. He said that all waste needs to be taken out of the site. He said that he will hook up to city water if his well water is found to be bad and wants his water tested three times to confirm this. He will not pay an outlandish price for the water and wants to see engineering plans for water hookup to verify that a hydrant would not be in his front yard.

Another person said that he and his brother's wells had not been tested. Both wells are 80 feet deep, but no wells deeper than 35 feet were tested. He said that in the 1970s, the company he worked for dredged material down 35 feet and could not cut past the hard pan level. He was concerned that although his well is below hard pan level that contamination can be pulled down and can seep through the hard pan.

People wanted to know if the water is safe for drinking, and if not, whether it is safe for bathing.

Some people would like their wells to be tested.

Someone suggested there is a risk to the kids that get on the site. Motorcycles and 3-wheelers have been seen on the site and there are deep shafts.

**Would you like to see the site redeveloped? If so, how?**

City officials said they receive a lot of inquiries about redevelopment of the site. Someone said the city should benefit from redevelopment of the site. Others said that redevelopment will happen and that it would probably be for businesses since the site is owned by the city.

Those interviewed suggested various uses for the site after it is cleaned up such as a golf course, ice rink, church, homes, parks, walking trails, and schools.

Some assumed that the site would be capped and that monitoring wells would remain on the site.

Another person said that the PRPs should be made to do some redevelopment.

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Although some felt that homes would be okay on the site after it is cleaned up, others said that they would not want anyone to live on the site.

Some people prefer the site be left to nature, and said “nature only – no factories, no golf, no park, just nature.”

Some would like to see the site redeveloped, but had no ideas or preference. They felt that whatever the community is interested in would be good. Someone else suggested that whatever the site is appropriately mitigated for (different uses of the site have different cleanup requirements), that it would be good and depended on the options.

## **Proposed community involvement**

EPA will address the issues, concerns, and questions that have been expressed about the site in the following ways.

### **Send fact sheets**

EPA will mail fact sheets to those on the site mailing list as a way to provide updates on the site and its activities. EPA will mail the fact sheets periodically to inform the public about upcoming meetings and important technical information.

In addition to sending fact sheets by first class mail, and distributing fact sheets at locations in the neighborhood where they can be picked up by residents, EPA will develop an e-mail distribution list for interested parties who prefer e-mail. Each fact sheet will be sent to e-mail recipients as a “.pdf” file at the same time that the fact sheet is mailed. E-mails will contain a link to EPA’s Himco Dump web site and to the electronic fact sheet.

### **Hold community meetings**

EPA will hold community meetings at key milestones. The meetings will be announced by newspaper notices, e-mail messages, web sites, and fact sheets.

The preferred location for meetings is the Elkhart Memorial High School or Woodland Elementary School.

### **Stay in contact with key stakeholders**

In addition to fact sheets and public meetings, the site e-mail distribution list that will be developed based on interest could be used to provide regular, concise updates ranging from a few sentences to a few paragraphs.

A contact list of government officials is in Appendix A.

### **Maintain information repositories**

The reference desk at the Elkhart Public Library, Pierre Moran Branch, will be established as the official information repository for documents and other site materials. Documents and site materials also are located at EPA’s Record Center. See Appendix A for location and hours.

### **Work with local media**

EPA staff will continue to be available to local media. The most widely read newspaper in



the community is the *Elkhart Truth*. EPA will publish notices in this newspaper prior to any site milestone, as appropriate. The other newspapers that are read by the community are the *South Bend Tribune* and the *Goshen News*. These papers will be provided site information for publication at their discretion.

Fact sheets and update letters may be provided to the Michiana area media since these media outlets occasionally feature news on Elkhart.

A contact list of area media services is in Appendix A.

#### **Internet**

Since many residents expressed interest in receiving information electronically, EPA will continue to post site information at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/himco>.

Photographs and site information will be added to the web site as they become available.

#### **Have a presence**

EPA's community involvement coordinator and remedial project manager will respond to inquiries from those interested in the site and are available to speak to local citizen groups, upon request. EPA's toll-free telephone number and direct numbers and e-mail addresses for project staff will be included on all community involvement material.

**Appendix A**  
**Himco Dump Superfund Site**  
**Contact List**

**Federal Elected Officials**

Richard G. Lugar  
United States Senate  
306 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-1401  
Phone: 202-224-4814

Main District Office  
1180 Market Tower, 10 West Market St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: 317-226-5555

Evan Bayh  
United States Senate  
131 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-1404  
Phone: 202-224-5623

Main District Office  
1650 Market Tower, 10 West Market St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: 317-554-0750

Joe Donnelly  
United States House of Representatives  
1218 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-1402  
Phone: 202- 225-3915

Main District Office  
207 West Colfax Avenue  
South Bend, IN 46601-1601  
Phone: 574-288-2780

Mark Souder  
United States House of Representatives  
2231 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-1403  
Phone: 202-225-4436

Main District Office

1300 S. Harrison St., #3105  
Ft. Wayne, IN 46802  
Phone: 260-424-3041

**State Elected Officials**

Governor Mitchell Daniels  
State House, Rm. 206  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: 317-232-4567

Main District Office  
504 Broadway, Ste. 423  
Gary, IN 46402  
Phone: 219-881-6704

Senator Ryan D. Mishler  
State House  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: 317-232-9400

Senator Joseph C. Zakas  
State House  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: 317-232-9400

Main District Office  
16372 Wild Cherry Drive  
Granger, IN 46530-8544  
Phone: 219-294-7473

Senator Marvin D. Riegsecker  
State House  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: 317-232-9400

Main District Office  
1814 Kentfield Way  
Goshen, IN 46526-5610

State Representative Craig R. Fry

State House  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: 800-382-9842

**Main District Office**

637 Bay View Drive  
Mishawaka, IN 46544  
Phone: 219-255-1923

State Representative Jackie Walorski  
State House  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: 800-382-9841

**Main District Office**

20121 Patterson Road  
Lakeville, IN 46536  
Phone: 574-784-2039

State Representative Timothy Neese  
State House  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: 317-382-9842

**Main District Office**

203 North Ward St.  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
Phone: 574-293-3894

State Representative John D. Ulmer  
State House  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: 800-382-9841

**Main District Office**

130 North Main St.  
Goshen, IN 46526-0575  
Phone: 219-533-1171

**County and Local Officials**

Dick Moore  
Mayor of Elkhart  
Municipal Building  
229 S. Second St.  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
Phone: 574-294-5471 ext. 240

Mike Machalan  
City Engineer  
Co-Leader of Public Works  
City of Elkhart  
1201 S. Nappanee St.  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
Phone: 574-293-2572

Laura Kolo  
Co-Leader of Public Works  
City of Elkhart  
1201 S. Nappanee St.  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
Phone: 574-293-2572

Steve Malone  
Office of the Controller  
City of Elkhart  
Municipal Building  
229 S. Second St.  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
Phone: 574-294-5471

Vlado Vranjes  
Director of Corporation Counsel  
City of Elkhart  
229 S. Second St.  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
Phone: 574-294-5471, ext. 321

Elkhart County Administration  
117 North Second St.  
Goshen, IN 46526  
Phone: 574-535-6743

Terry Rodino, President  
Mike Yoder, Vice-President  
Frank Lucchese, County  
Commissioner

John K. Letherman, At-Large  
Elkhart County Council President  
Administrative Office Building  
117 North Second St., Room 203  
Goshen, IN 46526  
Phone: 574-535-6719

Dr. Aixfa Perez  
Director  
Elkhart County Health Department

608 Oakland Avenue  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
Phone: 574-523-2283

John Hulewicz  
Director  
Environmental Health Department  
4230 Elkhart Road  
Goshen, IN 46526  
Phone: 574-875-3391

### **EPA**

EPA Region 5  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Phone: 800-621-8431

Ross Delrosario, SR-6J  
Remedial Project Manager  
Phone: 312-886-6195  
Toll free: 800-621-8431, ext. 66195  
E-mail: delrosario.rosauro@epa.gov

Yolanda Bouchee, P-191  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
Phone: 312-353-3209  
Toll free: 800-621-8431, ext. 33209  
E-mail: bouchee.yolanda@epa.gov

### **Information Repositories**

Elkhart Public Library  
Pierre Moran Branch  
2400 Benham Ave.  
Elkhart, IN 46517

EPA Region 5  
Record Center  
Ralph Metcalfe Building,  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Room 711  
Chicago, IL  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday

### **Public Meeting Locations**

Memorial High School  
2608 California Road  
Elkhart, IN 46514

Woodland Elementary School  
1220 CR 3  
Elkhart, IN 46514

### **Media-Newspaper**

The Elkhart Truth  
421 S. Second St.  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
Phone: 574-522-7777

The Goshen News  
114 South Main St.  
Goshen, IN 46801  
Phone: 574-533-2151

South Bend Tribune  
News  
225 W. Colfax Ave.  
South Bend, IN 46626  
Fax: 574-236-1765.  
E-mail: sbtnews@sbtinfo.com

Bristol Bugle News & Printing  
P.O. Box 414  
16900 CR 104  
Bristol, IN 46507  
Phone: 574-848-1404  
Fax: 574-848-5689

The Papers Incorporated  
206 S. Main St.  
Milford, IN 46542  
Phone: 574-658-4111 or  
800-733-4111  
Fax: 574-658-4701

### **Media-Television**

WFFT - Channel 55 FOX  
3707 Hillegas Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808  
Phone: 260-471-5555

WKJG - Channel 33 NBC  
2633 West State Blvd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808  
Phone: 260-471-5511

WPTA - Channel 21 ABC  
3401 Butler Road

Fort Wayne, IN 46808  
Phone: 260-483-0584

WANE - Channel 15 CBS  
P.O. Box 1515  
Fort Wayne, IN 46801  
Phone: 260-424-1515

WSBT - Channel 22 CBS  
300 West Jefferson Blvd.  
South Bend, IN 46601  
Phone: 574-233-3141

WNDU - Channel 16 NBC  
P.O. Box 1616  
South Bend, IN 46634  
Phone: 574-631-1616

WSJV - Channel 28 FOX  
58096 County Road 7 South  
Elkhart, IN 46517  
Phone: 574-679-9758

WNIT - Channel 34 PBS  
P.O. Box 3434  
Elkhart, IN 46515  
Phone: 574-675-9648

### **Media-Radio**

WVPE - Public Radio  
2424 California Road  
Elkhart, IN 46515  
Phone: 574-262-5660

WCMR - AM  
258020 County Road 26  
Elkhart, IN 46517

WFRN - AM  
P.O. Box 307  
Elkhart, IN 46515  
Phone: 574-875-5166

WKAM - AM  
930 E. Lincoln Avenue  
Goshen, IN 46528  
Phone: 574-533-1460

WTRC  
421 S. Second St.

Elkhart, IN 46516  
Phone: 574-389-5100

WZOW - FM  
3371 Cleveland Road  
Suite 300  
South Bend, IN 46628  
Phone: 574-273-9300

# CH2MHILL TRANSMITTAL

**To:** U.S. EPA, Region 5  
Superfund Record Center, SMR-7J  
77 West Jackson Blvd.,  
Chicago, IL 60604

**From:** Carla Mykytiuk  
8501 W. Higgins Rd., Suite 300  
Chicago, IL 60631  
773.693.3800 x251

**Attn:** Janet Pfundheller, Records Manager

**Date:** January 24, 2008

**Re:** EPA's Community Involvement Plan for Himco Dump Superfund site

**We Are Sending You:**

Attached		Under separate cover via	
Shop Drawings	X	Documents	Tracings
Prints		Specifications	Catalogs
Copy of letter		Other:	

Quantity	Description
1	Community Involvement Plan

If material received is not as listed, please notify us at once

Remarks:

Dear Ms. Pfundheller,

Attached is U.S. EPA's Community Involvement Plan for the Himco Dump Superfund site. A document repository for the Himco Dump site has been maintained at the Record Center. As part of our effort to keep the repository updated, we would appreciate it if you would add this document to the repository; making it available for public viewing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 773.693.3800 x251.

Thank you,

Carla Mykytiuk